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Agenda item 24

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2010, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled:

"Eradication of poverty and other development issues:

"(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017);

"(b) Industrial development cooperation"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on the item at its 16th and 17th meetings, on 21 October 2010. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.16 and 17). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 4 to 6 October (see A/C.2/65/SR.2-6). Action was taken on the item at the 21st and 28th meetings, on 28 October and 12 November (see A/C.2/65/SR.21 and 28). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be provided in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in three parts, under the symbol A/65/440 and Add.1 and 2.

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Item 24
Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Letter dated 24 August 2010 from the representative of Brazil to the President of the General Assembly (A/65/336)

Letter dated 29 September 2010 from the representative of Yemen to the Secretary-General (A/65/486)

Identical letters dated 28 October 2010 from the representative of Tajikistan to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (A/65/545-S/2010/558)

Letter dated 28 October 2010 from the representative of Nicaragua to the Secretary-General (A/65/547)

Item 24 (a)
Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/65/230)

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty (A/65/267)

Item 24 (b)
Industrial development cooperation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on industrial development cooperation (A/65/220)

4. At the 16th meeting, on 21 October, introductory statements were made by the Chief of the Social Perspective on Development Branch of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (under sub-item (a)) and the Director and Representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to the United Nations and other international organizations (under sub-item (b)) (see A/C.2/65/SR.16).

5. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Social Perspective on Development Branch of the Division for Social Policy and Development and the Director and Representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to the United Nations and other international organizations responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Saint Lucia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (see A/C.2/65/SR.16).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.10

6. At the 21st meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal,

Qatar, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection" (A/C.2/65/L.10).

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Morocco announced that Andorra, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Madagascar, Montenegro and Saudi Arabia had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. At its 28th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

9. Also at the 28th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Morocco, in which he announced that Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Haiti, India, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Mauritania, Monaco, Nepal, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Seychelles, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Ukraine had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Subsequently, Albania, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama and Uganda joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

10. Also at its 28th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.10 (see para. 12).

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the World Tourism Organization (see A/C.2/65/SR.28).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

12. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[3] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[4] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,[6] the outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development[7] and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[8]

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 53/200 of 15 December 1998 entitled "Proclamation of 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism",

Stressing that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing its economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels,

Stressing also that ecotourism can, in the framework of sustainable tourism, contribute to the fight against poverty, to protection of the environment and to promoting sustainable development,

Welcoming the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote ecotourism and sustainable tourism worldwide,

Welcoming also the efforts of the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production, and in particular its task force on the sustainable

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[7] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[8] Resolution 65/1.

development of tourism, as a cross-sectoral example of more sustainable consumption and production practices,

Noting the initiatives launched and events organized at the subregional, regional and international levels in the field of ecotourism and sustainable development,

1. *Recognizes* that the development of ecotourism, in the framework of sustainable tourism, can have positive impacts on income generation, job creation and education, and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger, and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits stemming from ecotourism activities in all countries, particularly in developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States;

3. *Also emphasizes* that ecotourism can contribute to sustainable development, in particular environmental protection, and improve the well-being of local and indigenous communities;

4. *Recognizes* that ecotourism creates significant opportunities for the conservation, protection and sustainable use of natural areas by encouraging local and indigenous communities in host countries and tourists alike to preserve and respect natural and cultural heritage;

5. *Also recognizes* the potential of ecotourism to reduce poverty through improving individual livelihoods in local communities and to generate resources for community development projects;

6. *Underlines* in this regard the importance of establishing, at the national level and in accordance with national priorities, appropriate guidelines and regulations for promoting and supporting ecotourism and minimizing its potential negative impact, and encourages Member States to promote investment in ecotourism, in accordance with their national legislation, which may include the creation of small- and medium-sized enterprises and facilitating access to finance, including through microcredit initiatives for the poor, local and indigenous communities in areas with high ecotourism potential, including rural areas;

7. *Also underlines* the importance of conducting an environmental impact assessment, in accordance with national legislation, for the development of ecotourism opportunities;

8. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, in all their aspects, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in ecotourism policy development, and underlines the importance of promoting the full participation and involvement of local and indigenous communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating indigenous and local knowledge, heritage and values in ecotourism initiatives, as appropriate;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for effective measures in the context of ecotourism initiatives to ensure the full empowerment of women, including equal participation of women and men at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, in the context of the global campaign for the Millennium Development Goals, to promote ecotourism as an instrument that can contribute to achieving those Goals, in particular the Goals of eradicating extreme poverty and of ensuring environmental sustainability, and to support the efforts and policies of developing countries in this field;

11. *Encourages* the regional and international financial institutions to provide adequate support to programmes and projects related to ecotourism, taking into account the economic and environmental benefits of such activities;

12. *Recognizes* the role of North-South cooperation in promoting ecotourism as a means to achieve economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve living standards in developing countries, and also recognizes that South-South and triangular cooperation, as complements to North-South cooperation, have potential for promoting ecotourism;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, at its sixty-seventh session, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization and other relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including recommendations on ways and means to promote ecotourism as a tool to fight poverty and promote sustainable development.